

A Tongue Gone Astray

America, "a society gone mad on war."

America, "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

America "destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over."

America is "victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long."

American troops in South Vietnam herd peasants "off the land of their fathers into concentration camps."

American troops "poison their water" and "kill a million acres of their crops."

American troops "may have killed a million of them — mostly children."

Thousands of children are "homeless, without clothes, running in packs on the streets like animals," "selling their sisters" to American soldiers, "soliciting for their mothers."

American troops test their latest weapons on the Vietnamese "just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe."

The rabid fulminations of the Viet Cong radio or the government of North Vietnam? Not at all. They are phrases from a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in New York on April 4.

The Vietnamese Communists have never gone as far.

Louis Armstrong, the musician, was quoted recently as saying, "I never let my tongue say what my head can't stand."

It seems as if the Rev. King's tongue got carried away.

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